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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1953

We left by car this morning at half past eight for Bonnetable, where I had been asked to shoot by Robert Gérard. Sosthène de la Rochefoucauld syndicated this shoot several years ago and Robert is one of the members.

We found the old Duc de Doudeauville, ~~XXXX~~ now almost 84 years old, in fine spirits but too blind to read. He was obliged to give up shooting when he was eighty. However, he has newspapers and books read to him and is remarkably well informed on current international politics. He is a warm supporter of EDC. Although he probably has no ready money, he still lives in considerable style in the great chateau of Bonnetable, situated in the middle of a town of the same name. It has a moat around it and a drawbridge, together with about 8,000 acres of agricultural and forest land. The open fields are almost exclusively for pasturage, although a great deal of excellent fruit is also grown there. The region closely resembles Normandie with its small grass fields surrounded by hedges.

The shooting was ~~very~~ informal with a number of short drives each day. Since there is little grain raised, partridges are not nearly as numerous as they are in the grain-producing areas of France but there are a sufficient number to provide admirable sport, especially since the country lends itself to driving them over the guns at difficult heights and angles. We killed about 57 pieces of game today, most of them partridges. Those shooting were Sosthène, the Comte de la Rochefoucauld and his wife, Princess Isabelle (the old Duc's granddaughter), Monsieur de Nanteuil, the Marquis de Montmorin, Anisson du Perron, and others. Robert did not arrive until dinner tonight.

E. operated as my loader with a high degree of

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